

KidCare Update

September 6, 2001

The summer months have been busy for DCF as we move to make Connecticut Community KidCare a reality.

On August 5th the Department issued a Statewide Request for Proposal for two of the core services within the new model: Mobile Crisis Services and Care Coordination.

These two services will greatly improve the scope and intensity of crisis services available to children and youth most in need of immediate mental health intervention.

Regional offices will be reviewing proposals, which are due on September 24th and we hope to announce the successful applicants by the second week in October. For additional information about the contents within the Request for Proposal, please visit the DCF website and click on under "RFP".

DCF remains committed to a roll-out plan which will allow all regions within the State to enter into contracts for these critical services by April 1, 2002. In addition to Mobile Crisis and Care Coordination, roll out plans include increased numbers of Extended Day Treatment slots, in-home clinical services, and therapeutic respite.

Regional roll out schedule is as follows: South Central: December 1, 2001
NorthWest: January 1, 2002 North Central: February 1, 2002 Eastern: April 1, 2002
SouthWest: April 1, 2002

In anticipation of the first regional roll-out, staff members in the South Central office are preparing for the initiation of the Connecticut Community KidCare Institute; the Department's statewide training effort which will build upon a "train the trainer" model. DCF regional and facility staff, community providers, parents and community leaders will have an opportunity to attend a 5 day training which will encompass core values implied within KidCare, basic issues pertaining to children's mental health, and practical issues regarding the new community based model of service. Trainers will be members of the targeted audience and will be selected through an application process.

Contract negotiations are underway for a Statewide Family Advocacy Network. The successful applicant, represents a consortium of family advocacy organizations, including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - Connecticut, Padres Abriendo Puertas, African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, and Families United for Children's Mental Health. These organizations will be building upon the existing system that currently includes eight full time family advocates. To that end, these groups will assist the Department in developing and enhancing a statewide parent advocacy organization that will increase parent knowledge around children's behavioral health, educational and legal issues, and will allow parents to become better advocates for their children.

Should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact the Division of Mental Health.
